



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



## 2013-2014 English Learners Exit Criteria

As the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) moves toward the 2014-15 school year when Connecticut assessments will be aligned to the Common Core State Standards, the Academic Office continues to work with appropriate CSDE consultants to ensure topics related to English language learners (ELs) are identified, discussed and processes are communicated appropriately.

The request by CSDE to provide Connecticut school districts with new flexibility on statewide standardized tests as recommended by the Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) and approved by the State Board of Education offers districts the option to administer the Common Core-aligned Smarter Balanced assessment in English language arts and mathematics rather than Connecticut's legacy assessments, the CMT and CAPT, in the 2013-14 school year. Therefore, the following ELs exit criteria for all grades have been established for those districts participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment rather than the CMT or CAPT in 2013-14 school year.

### 2013-14 ELs Exit Criteria

#### K – 2 ELs Exit Criteria

**Developmental Reading Assessment (second edition) (DRA2)** – The State Board of Education has established criterion for ELs who take the DRA2. This criterion will continue for the 2013-14 academic year.

Pilot districts with State Board of Education approval as an approved pilot activity may use the **Text Reading Comprehension (TRC) Assessment** (produced by Amplify) as exit criteria for ELs to determine reading progress and in some cases may also use the DRA2 results. The M Class – Dibbles Next which measures fluency is also used but not for ELs exit criteria.

Equivalent DRA2 benchmarks have been developed for the TRC and approved by the state to allow the exit of ELs who has taken this assessment versus the DRA2.

At this time, no other state approval has been granted to districts for other K – 2 ELs exit criteria.

#### Grades 3 – 8 and High School ELs Exit Criteria

For the 2013-14 academic year the **CMT and CAPT** results can be used as in the past for ELs exit criteria.

Some districts have been given permission to use the Smarter Balanced Assessment in the spring of 2014. Districts that are granted permission to use the Smarter Balanced Assessment for the 2013-14 academic year may use the English language proficiency (ELP - LAS Links Form C) assessment results as exit criteria for 2014 but must increase the required proficiency level to a level five. This criterion applies for the 2014 year only.

A methodology will be established to determine exit criteria for all grades incorporating both the English language proficiency level and the academic performance components once the Smarter Balanced Assessment is used by all districts in 2015.